

CONFIDENTIAL

OLC 73-1262

30 October 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Chairman Lucien Nedzi re Alleged
Inconsistencies in Mr. Helms' Testimony on Agency
Operations [REDACTED]

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1. In response to his earlier call to [REDACTED] I called Chairman Nedzi, Intelligence Subcommittee, House Armed Services Committee, to say that the press queries which he had been receiving presumably stemmed from yesterday's remarks by former Special Prosecutor Cox alleging inconsistencies in the testimony of an important but unidentified witness. I told Mr. Nedzi that I understood a reporter for the Hearst press had identified the witness as Dick Helms. I said that the inconsistency in question apparently concerned Mr. Helms' 28 June 1972 memorandum to General Walters regarding a request that the FBI limit their Watergate investigation lest they uncover Agency

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[REDACTED] I reminded Mr. Nedzi that he had a copy of this memo and quoted it to him. He said he still couldn't understand why Mr. Helms would want to restrict the FBI's investigation if in fact he was already satisfied the Agency was in no way involved. I read to Mr. Nedzi, from the record of Mr. Colby's confirmation hearing, Mr. Colby's explanation that our concern was these investigations might reveal CIA activities and our belief that they were unnecessary since we had established we had no involvement with Watergate. I added that presumably Mr. Helms was concerned that, despite the fact we had no Watergate involvement, a wide range FBI fishing expedition [REDACTED] might conceivably compromise sensitive Agency operations there completely unrelated to Watergate. Mr. Nedzi asked when the 28 June 1972 memo in question had been made available to the Committee and after checking I told him on 19 July 1973. He said he would look it up.

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2. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Nedzi called to ask if we thought he could make this memo available to the press. I pointed out it contained the names of covert personnel, and was now in the hands of the Justice Department for possible action of some kind and I therefore would strongly urge against its publication. He said he didn't mean to turn it over to the press but wanted to confirm its existence. He added that in confirming the existence of the memo, he would point out the Subcommittee had been furnished a copy last summer and that in his judgment the memo contained nothing incriminating. He said he was inclined to agree with me there was really nothing in the memo that should be subject to misinterpretation.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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SUBJECT: (Optional)

Soft folder "Nedzi Questions re

FROM: Legislative Counsel

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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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cc: DDO, DDI, DDM&S, DDS&T, IC
D/NIO

15.

Attached is a copy of the report of the Nedzi Subcommittee hearings on Agency involvement in Watergate/Ellsberg matters. You will note that the Subcommittee recommends (top of page 5) legislation to "Prohibit transactions between former CIA employees and the Agency above and beyond purely routine administrative matters."

From the text of the report, and from informal conversations with Chairman Nedzi and members of his staff, it appears that this proposal stems from the Subcommittee's concern over the wisdom and propriety of our contacts with Hunt and McCord (regarding Watergate/Ellsberg) and John McCone (regarding ITT) after they had left the Agency.

Clearly the kind of blanket prohibition the Subcommittee has proposed is totally unrealistic. Since we have obviously got a major job of educating them as to why this is so, we would appreciate by 7 November some briefing material on the nature, scope, and value of our contacts with former employees, and documenting the damage which would result from cutting off these contacts.

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